For specific activities, such as the coordination and facilitation provided by the Indian consulate in Jeddah for the travel and stay of Indian Haj pilgrims, the Post is granted special permission every year to locally hire additional hands during the Haj season.

Proposal to abolish import duty on Ferro-Nickel

449. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to abolish the import duty on ferro-nickel to increase the import of ferro-nickel so that the domestic stainless steel production would be increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

(c) All ferro-alloys including ferro-nickel already enjoy a concessional rate of basic customs duty of 5% as against the peak rate for industrial goods of 10%. Steel production is a function of several factors such as demand, prices, domestic capacity etc. and is not determined by imports of ferro-nickel alone.

Sectors affected by global recession

†450. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of which pace of development has been affected by global recession and upto what extent;

(b) the areas in which proposed investments may be required to change comprehensively in order to keep the pace of complete development in this Five Year Plan; and

(c) assistance which would be required for the purpose from outside?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The global slowdown has impacted the growth of the domestic economy. As per the Advance Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in real GDP for 2008-09 is placed at 7.1 per cent, as compared with 9.0 per cent in 2007-08. The estimated growth in 2008-09 is composed of growth of 2.6 per cent in Agriculture and allied sectors, 4.8 per cent in Industry and 9.6 per cent in Services as compared to a growth of 4.9 percent, 8.1 percent and 10.9 percent in 2007-08.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisaged an annual average real growth of 9 percent comprising an average per annum growth of 4 per cent in Agriculture, 10 to 11 per cent in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Industry and 9 to 11 per cent in Services. The downside risks for achieving this growth emanate from factors like global economic slowdown, deterioration in global financial markets and slowing down in domestic demand. Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India have initiated measures to shore up liquidity and investment financing in the domestic economy and also to encourage capital inflows for financing growth.

India's external debt

451. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt India owes at present to the world as on 31st December, 2008, giving details, country-wise; and

(b) how much every Indian thus owes to the world as on 31st December, 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the latest data available, external debt of the country stood at US $ 222,612 million as at end-September 2008. The country-wise details in respect of Bilateral external debt are set out in the following table:

Table 1: Country-wise Details of Bilateral External Debt

(US $ million)

Sl. No.	Country	External Debt as at end-September 2008
	Bilateral External Debt (i to vii)	**17,336**
(i)	Japan	11,288
(ii)	Germany	3,430
(iii)	Russian Federation	1,548
(iv)	France	595
(v)	United States	469
(vi)	Switzerland	5
(vii)	Norway	1

(b) The per capita external debt as at end-September, 2008 is given in Table 2:

Table 2: Per capita External Debt as at end-Sept. 2008

Year	Total External Debt	Per Capita External Debt
	(US $ million)	(US $)
2008-09	222,612	192.9